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## Pryor will be a fine judge

**P**RESIDENT BUSH has made an excellent choice in nominating Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for a judgeship on the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Pryor has proven time and again to be a man of integrity and compassion. Boasting a first-rate legal mind, a keen intelligence, and a sterling resumé, the attorney general has earned support for this judgeship from a wide and bipartisan range of public figures.

For instance, The Associated Press has reported that new U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, a black Democrat, has given the Republican Mr. Pryor "a ringing endorsement" for the bench. Dr. Joe Reed, chairman of the Alabama Democratic Conference, said the AG is a "first-class public official" who "will be a credit to the judiciary and will be a guardian for justice."

The Democrat edged out by Mr. Pryor in the 1998 elections, former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Terry Butts, has praised him, too:

so has former Democratic state attorney general Bill Baxley.

Mr. Pryor graduated *magna cum laude* from Tulane University School of Law, where he served as editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review. He clerked for legendary appeals court judge John Minor Wisdom, a civil rights hero. And he also served as an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law.

As attorney general, Mr. Pryor's service has been exemplary. Though a Republican, he has often taken legal positions at odds with the party line. As the driving force behind the state's sentencing commission, this AG is a proven reformer and voice of reason. And as the creator of a statewide youth mentoring program, Mr. Pryor has shown he understands that it's better to prevent crime than to punish it.

For all these reasons, Bill Pryor merits swift confirmation to the bench.